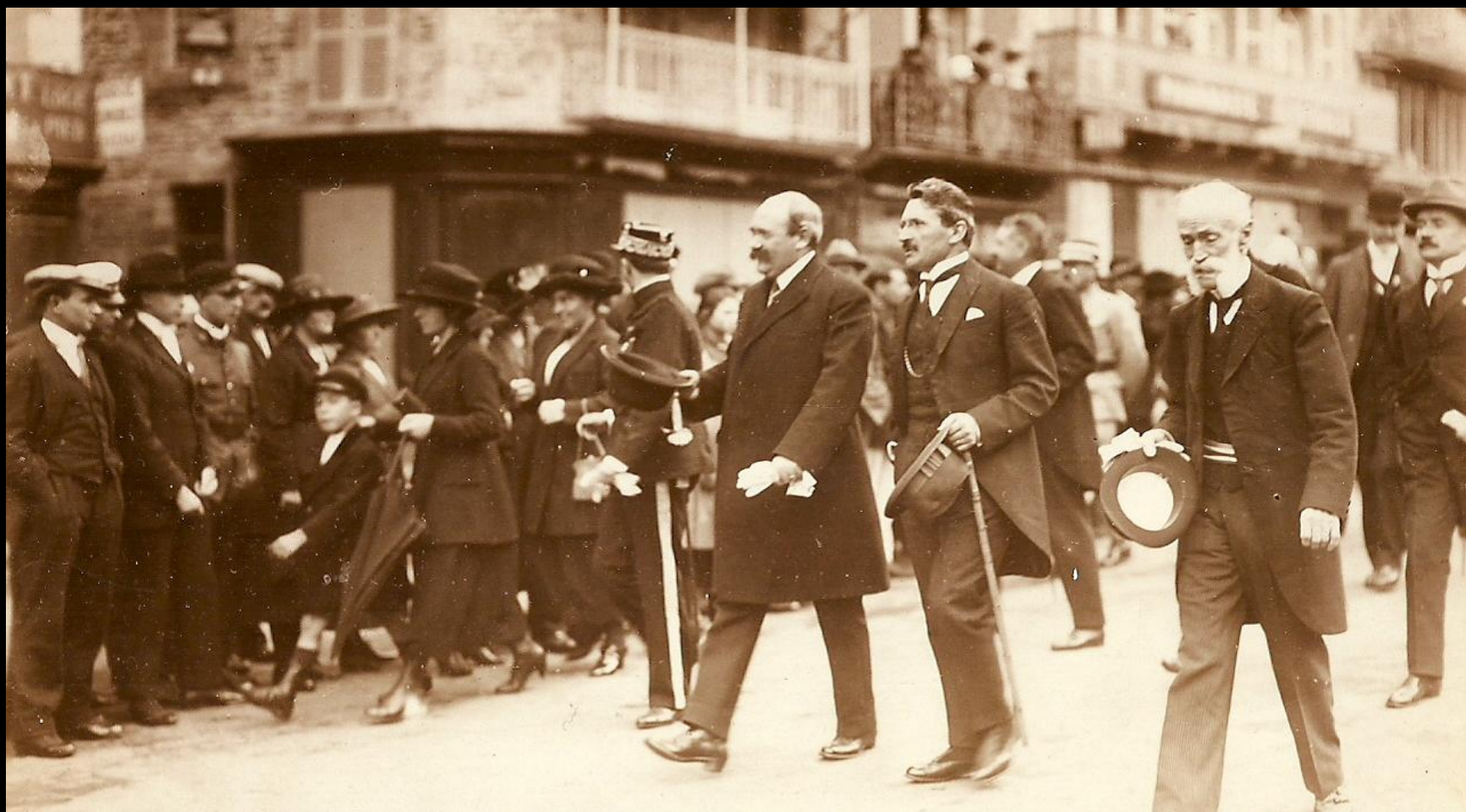


# *Ocean Exploration 2020: A National Forum*

An Overview & Some Observations On  
How It Fits Into Recent Ocean  
Exploration Meetings & Activities

NOAA SAB  
November 2013  
Jerry R. Schubel



THE REPORT OF  
OCEAN  
EXPLORATION  
2020  
A NATIONAL FORUM



JULY 19-21 • 2013

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### COLLABORATING PARTNERS

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Esri
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Geographic
- National Science Foundation
- Ocean Exploration Trust
- Roddenberry Foundation
- U.S. Department of State
- United States Geological Survey

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Susan Slavik Williams and Felix Williams

### CO-HOSTS



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# The Forum Strategy

## A Partnership of OEAWG, OER & AoP

- Pre-Forum Activities
  - OEAWG Identified 7 major issues , and developed a set of questions for each.
  - These become 7 surveys sent to 181 invitees
  - Results were compiled and distributed to all participants before forum
  - Secured Sponsors

# The 7 Organizing Themes

- Exploration Priorities (geographies, phenomena, processes)
- Partnerships and Funding
- Technology
- Platforms
- Citizen Exploration
- Data and Information Management and Sharing
- Public Engagement

# The Forum Strategy II

- Forum Activities

- Marketplace of Ideas: Lightning Talks, Ideas from the floor to Stimulate Creativity
- Plenary Presentations to Provide Context: Different Perspectives
- Reaction Panel to Challenge These Perspectives
- Charge to Working Groups: Same Charge
- Report out in Plenary in Search for Consensus
- Repeat the cycle....to Dampen Oscillations & Converge on Strong Consensus

Certain/  
Community  
Consensus



Important





*Amerigo  
Vespucci*



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REACTON PANEL

Seize the Arctic: time is right. Does the US have the assets to do this and if so how quickly could we mount an exploration?

- Swedish asset. The best capability is foreign capability, 2014 polar cruise. We have one capable icebreaker in the Arctic. High demand. Coast Guard runs it.

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# Some Major Findings

- Strong community support for a coordinated, collaborative national program of ocean exploration that combines the public and private sectors.
- Strong community support for NOAA to play the leadership role it has been authorized to play in PL 111-11.
- Strong community endorsement of the present NOAA ocean exploration model:
  - Dedicated platform
  - Ships of opportunity
  - AUVs, ROVs, and less emphasis on HOVs
  - Telepresence
  - Data sharing on a timely basis
  - Public engagement

# Some Major Findings

- Strong community endorsement that priorities should be set by the ocean exploration community, but recognizing National Priorities.
- Initial priorities included places and processes:
  - Arctic, Western Pacific
  - water column
  - ocean acidification
- Strong consensus that it is not NOAA's responsibility to be a major developer of new technologies, but that it needs to be a leader as an early adopter, providing validation, setting standards.

# Some Major Findings

- Citizen Science
  - *New and important*
  - *Participation and contribution will continue to grow*
- Data Sharing
  - *Free and open (mostly)*
  - *Need for data synthesis of contemporary and historical data*
- Public Engagement
  - *Draw in public with a positive message*
  - *Need for more effective communications strategies*
  - *Opportunities to participate (actively) are important*

# OE 2020: The Public Day

- Breakfast & Lunch with Explorers
- Brief Presentations by Explorers
- Hands-On Activities
  - OpenROV
  - LBCC Robotics Program
- Live Feeds from Okeanos/Nautilus/Falkor
- Film on Ocean Exploration
- Wonders of the Deep Live Animal Exhibit
- SoS Film on Ocean Exploration























# Ocean Exploration 2020: Group Photo



# Some Very Recent & Important Events In Ocean Exploration

- Ocean Exploration 2020: A National Forum (July 19-21 2013)
- Lead Editorial in Science by Marcia McNutt Aug. 13, 2013, “Accelerating Ocean Exploration.”
- Oceans ‘13 (MTS & IEEE, September 23-27. 2013)
- Schmidt Ocean Institute 2013 Research Symposium (November 1-2, 2013)
- Esri Ocean GIS Forum (November 2013)



# 3 Important Points

- The Ocean Exploration 2020 Forum (July 2013) was a community statement of more than 110 of the nation's leading ocean explorers of the qualities they wanted a national program to have.
- The OEAB is being stood up in response to the Ocean Exploration Act and the Gaffney/Ausubel Decadal Review recommendations.
- SAB is waiting for NOAA's Response to the Decadal Review of OER.

# A Recommendation

- SAB convenes a conference call by mid-December with OEAG and NOAA Leadership to be briefed on NOAA's Response to the Gaffney-Ausubel Decadal Review of OER.

# Closing Thoughts



# *After Ocean Exploration 2020*

- The President's Panel Report (2000) called for a national ocean exploration program and a national forum as a venue for ocean explorers to share and exchange ideas
- The Ocean Exploration Act of 2009 requires NOAA to coordinate a national program and to host a national forum
- The NOAA Ocean Exploration Decadal Review (2012) called for a forum as soon as possible
- The OEAB is being stood up in response to the Ocean Exploration Act and the Gaffney/Ausubel Recommendations.

